

Department of Fisheries, and, as undoubtedly the Minister knows, one of the major matters receiving attention and discussion in this year's ILO conference is the question of the formulation of a convention or recommendation by the I.L.O. on the question of the training of fishermen.

The question I wanted to raise had to do with the proposals that are now before the ILO convention which go into some considerable detail about training of fishermen, about the recommendation that knowledge from the work of the Fisheries Research Board and similar bodies be made more widely available to working fishermen. Assuming that this recommendation is adopted by ILO and also assuming that Canada will generally be interested in moving towards the ILO recommendation, will this mean an expansion in any major way of the vote that now comes under the general heading of educational work in fisheries into these fields, or will it be likely that this aspect of the matter will be handled through the Department of Labour or some other agency of the federal government, I assume in co-operation with the provinces.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Mr. Chairman, this would be government policy; it would be up to the Government to decide, but normally it would be administered under the Department of Labour, although we have offered, and we are giving, our co-operation. The officials of this department are involved in the courses that are being given, in the preparation of fish and other matters; but we all agree that there is a need for the training of fishermen, and if the ILO convention recommends that there should be an expansion in this field, I am convinced that Canada will be one of the first countries to accept this recommendation.

Mr. BARNETT: I raised this question partly because it was obvious to me that our department was vitally interested inasmuch as one of the officers of the department is playing a very leading role and was chairman, as I understand it, of a preparatory conference that we held leading up to the first ILO meeting.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: It was with this in mind, Mr. Chairman, that we did have a fisheries representative attending this meeting. We recognize the need in the near future for this type of training on the Pacific coast. If we are going to develop our offshore ground fish fisheries on the Pacific coast, we are certainly going to get away from the inshore fisheries. We will be engaged in fisheries on the high seas and we will need this type of training.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions under Vote 15?

Mr. KEAYS: One short question under "Items not required for 66-67". These concern payments of assistance to fishermen whose income from fishing in a certain calendar year are lessened. I understand there is no item included for 66-67. Is it the intention of the department that if, and we hope it does not happen, it does happen that there is a bad year, this assistance will still be available.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Mr. Chairman, this was an emergency measure, as the hon. member knows, because of the bad season that we had last year in some areas. There is no way of having an item in the main estimates to cover such a measure because it will depend upon the need. If there is the same type of urgency this fall, I am convinced—I cannot speak for the government—but I am sure that I would be prepared to recommend to the government that consideration be given to provide some type of assistance.